and for extending concessions/benefits to them.

(b) The State Governments of Bihar, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are following the age of 60 years while in the State of Rajasthan the eligibility is 58 years for males and 55 years for females for disbursement of old age pension to senior citizens.

District disability rehabilitation centres

2735. SHRI S.ANBALAGAN:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY;

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the functions of the sistricts disability rehabilitation centres;

(b) the number of such Centres that have been sanctioned and actually set up in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether it is proposed to open more such centres in the States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN):(a) The major functions of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) is to provide services for prevention, early detection and early intervention, fitment of artificial aids and appliances, therapeutical services such as physiotherapy, occupational and speech therapy, facilitation of disability certificate, bus passes and other concessions, referral services for surgical correction/training for acquisition of skills through vocational training, arrangement of loans for self employments, job placement in local industries etc.

(b) There are six DDRCs sanctioned in Tamil Nadu out of which five centres *viz.* Madurai, Vellore, Tuticorin, Virudhunagar and Salem are and functional Kanyakumari could not become functional since the building of DDRC has not been provided by the District Administration. In Andhra

Pradesh only three DDRCs have been sanctioned in the districts namely Anantpur, Karimnagar and vlshakhapatnam and all of these are functional.

(c) to (e) The Government has formulated a policy for identifying the districts for setting up of the DDRCs, which is as follows:-

Districts where currently no services are available for persons with disabilities either through Government, Semi-Government or Voluntary agencies are eligible.

State Government is willing for implementation and sharing of responsibilities.

The State Government provides rent free well connected building for the purpose.

Priority is given to districts eligible on the above criteria based on the following conditions:

(i) Higher prevalence rate of disability.

(ii) Longer distance from the existing DDRC or similar service centre.

The State Governments including Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh have been requested to submit their proposals.

Scholarships and assistance of SC/ST students in Kerala

2736. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of assistance granted to the Government of Kerala for the purpose of scholarships and educational assistance to the SC/ST students during the years 2001 -02,2002-03 and 2003-04;

(b) the amount spent by the State Government for the scheme during the above years;

(c) whether the State Government lapsed any sum meant for the scheme and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount allotted during 2004-05 for the scheme alongwith the details of its utilization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN):(a) to (d) Central assistance released to and sent by the Government of Kerala